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October 28, 1947

Rewritten

MEMORANDUM TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED [REDACTED] SITE FOR FBI'S EAST COAST MISSION

REFERENCE: REAL ESTATE PLANNING REPORT DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1947

1. FBI has completed thorough practical tests of potential monitoring coverage at the proposed [REDACTED] site. These tests reveal that signals of foreign transmitters which should be assigned the East Coast Bureau for coverage are as strong at this location as can be expected at any point on the middle Atlantic and that local interference is at a minimum.

25X1A

2. As indicated by reference report, the site provides acreage for development of adequate antenna fields and some protection against encroachments which might threaten electronic interference. Although there is possibility of eventual residential development nearby, there seems to be no likelihood of industrial development; and from this point of view the lands to the east of the Potomac are a better choice than any other area within commuting distance of the District.

3. It is conceivable that a prolonged and thorough exploration of the entire East coast of the United States might yield a location at which FBI coverage of European and Latin American shortwave transmitters could be more significantly improved. However, in view of the delays already encountered in selecting a suitable site and of the urgency of improving the present inadequate operation at [REDACTED] it is the recommendation of this office that the site be acquired by long-term lease and agricultural lands be cutleased in accordance with the "special recommendation" of reference report, provided that suitable construction may be undertaken on leased property.

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4. Attached is an implementing memorandum drafted for your signature to Chief, Services Branch.

PKB:bhr

[REDACTED]
Chief, FBI

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236

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